

## **U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #120, DECEMBER 2013**

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. How you choose to use the information included here is up to you.

This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an organization of leading women educators with over 90,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to [Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com](mailto:Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com). We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

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### **WOMEN AND CONGRESS – ERROR IN LAST ISSUE**

Senator Debbie Stabenow is from Michigan not Minnesota.

### **RAPE IN THE MILITARY**

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (HR 3304ENR) passed by both the House and the Senate and signed by the President on December 26, 2013 changes the way in which rape in the military is to be handled. The bill would strip commanders of their ability to overturn or modify sentences handed down by judges and/or juries. CNN reported passage of the bill which would establish minimum sentencing guidelines and would require that sexual offenses be included in military personnel records. The portion of the bill dealing with sexual assault is "TITLE XVII--SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AND RELATED REFORMS." This is a very long bill and the section dealing with sexual assault is not even mentioned in the abstract of the legislation.

### **POSTAGE RATE CHANGE**

Starting on January 26, 2014 the cost of a stamp for a letter weighing less than 1 ounce will go from \$0.46 to \$0.49. This is about a 6.5% increase in price. Other postage rates will change at that time also. For a complete listing of postal rates go to [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). You can buy "forever" stamps at the current rate, and they will be good for whatever the price of a first class letter-sized item is in the future. For example, a 100 roll of forever stamps will cost \$46 on January 25, 2014, but it will cost \$49 on January 26, 2014.

### **CHANGE IN WEB SITE FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION**

In the past if one wanted to find information about anything to do with the U.S. Congress one would go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php>. This is in the process of changing with a new web site being created. The current address of the new site is <http://beta.congress.gov/>. Both sites will continue to operate for a while. The new site offers some educational resources such as nine videos which explain common legislative stages as well as videos of some historical documents.

### **NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR**

The National Legislative Seminar (NLS) organized by DKG's U.S. Forum Committee occurs biennially. The next NLS will be held March 16th-19th, 2014 at the Holiday Inn, National Airport, 2650 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202. The NLS registration form and hotel contact information is available at <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/US-Forum/File%20Sharing/files/2014%20NLS%20Reg%20Form.pdf>. After February 16, 2014 the registration fee will increase from \$160 to \$185.

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### **FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK**

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

**FORUM WEB SITE** <http://bit.ly/DKGUSF>

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### **CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION**

**U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION** can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670) [this is a toll free number]. You can contact your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges.

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate  
White House [1-202-456-1111](tel:1-202-456-1111)

**FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.**